

### **Early Childhood Education Endorsement – birth through age eight**

1. An early childhood endorsement is optional, but recommended for individuals teaching in infant/toddler programs, preschool, kindergarten or primary level elementary grades who are not otherwise certified in early childhood education. When combined with an elementary education teaching certificate or a special education teaching certificate, it may be used in lieu of a standard early childhood education certificate as described in R7-2-612(I).
2. An endorsement shall be automatically renewed with the certificate on which it is posted.
3. The requirements are:
  - a. A valid Arizona elementary education teaching certificate as provided in R7-2-608 or a special education teaching certificate as provided in R7-2-610.
  - b. Early childhood education coursework and practicum experience which includes both of the following:
    - i. 21 semester hours of early childhood education courses to include all of the following areas of study:
      - (1) foundations of early childhood education;
      - (2) child guidance and classroom management;
      - (3) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;
      - (4) child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition;
      - (5) child, family, cultural and community relationships;
      - (6) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;
      - (7) early language and literacy development;
      - (8) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children; and
    - ii. 8 semester hours of practicum, in which experience in 2 of 3 different age levels is included: Infant/Toddler (birth – 3 years), preschool/kindergarten (3 – 5 years), or grades 1 – 3. Two years of verified teaching experience with children birth – age 8 or grade 3 in a school-based education program or DHS licensed child care center-based program may substitute for the practicum; and
  - c. A valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by Arizona DPS; and
  - d. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the AEPA is adopted by the Board.
4. An individual may also qualify for an Early Childhood Education Endorsement if the individual:
  - a. Has current National Board Certification in Early Childhood; and
  - b. Holds a valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by Arizona DPS.